

THE MISSION SOCIETY.

Regular Monthly Meeting Saturday Night.

AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION.

New Members Added—Reminiscences of Early Hawaiian Life—The Early Education of Hawaiian Youth. Remarks by Old Kamaaina.

The regular monthly meeting of the Mission Children's Society was held at the house of C. H. Atherton, King street, last Saturday night; thirty members were present. Professor Richards, of Kamehameha, had charge of the discussion on the subject of the evening.

The treasurer's report from July 1st showed receipts of \$268, and expenditures of \$206, leaving a balance of \$62 in the treasury—a sum inadequate to supply all the needs of the various educational institutions applying to the society for help. The apparent smallness of receipts was due to the fact that two of the regular monthly meetings were not held on account of the cholera epidemic.

Rev. O. P. Emerson made a few appropriate remarks on the death of Mrs. A. V. Soares, a faithful, active member of the society and a member of the Maile Wreath committee. She had worked most assiduously in the interests of the society during her connection with it. At Mr. Gulick's suggestion a committee, consisting of Mrs. A. B. Cona, the corresponding secretary, and J. S. Emerson, the vice-president, were appointed to express the sympathy of the society to Rev. Soares in his bereavement, and to represent that body at the funeral.

The following persons were elected active members in the society: Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Warriner, Miss Jessie L. Broeke, Miss Harriet Lewers and Miss Gilliam.

While the collection was being taken, the president announced that W. I. Warriner would act as committee on music for the next three months.

In introducing the subject of the evening, "Early Education of Hawaiian Youth," Professor Richards remarked upon the interest which had been taken in the subject both at home and abroad. He called upon Rev. O. H. Gulick, who introduced the subject of Japan as he found it twenty-four years ago, and compared it with Japan of today, showing the result of missionary enterprise, the forerunner of civilization.

Mrs. A. B. Cona presented some reminiscences of early Hawaiian work. She came to Honolulu as a teacher in Kawaiahae Seminary. The premises were most uninviting and the work quite a hardship.

Dr. J. K. Smith said that a great many had claimed too much had been done for the Hawaiians. There were still others who claimed that too little had been done. Have they really had too much done for them? This could be answered in the following manner: Firstly, Hawaiians had been given plenty of advice; secondly, examples, both good and bad, had been set them; thirdly, they had been given instruction in church and school; fourthly, laws had been made, the effects of which had worked for their general good; fifthly, charity had been shown. True, this had at times been misplaced, but still the good sense of the givers in many instances had been amply rewarded. Scamps had been helped, as is always the case. In comparing the dealings of foreigners with the natives, the speaker thought that a fairer dealing had been shown than in any other country, and the growth of Hawaiians in peaceful evolution from an existence of barbarism fifty years ago was due to the faithful work which had been done. The question had been asked why so many Hawaiians have not amounted to much. They had not lived up to their opportunities. This was sufficient answer. This was largely because there was only one chance in ten of their being able to live up to their opportunities, since only one in ten attended boarding schools, thus leaving in the majority the uneducated and older ones with habits fixed. The question had been asked, could we not put our money to better use than spending it for those purposes. The answer was to be found in the fact that we are responsible for examples set the natives by ourselves and the people who came to the islands first. Is it not better to educate our own children? What better heritage could we leave our children than the example of using money for those who need it most?

Professor Richards, by way of introducing further discussion, asked for fruits of past work. It was not sufficient to say that these could be found in the whole body politic of the Hawaiian people. Details were required by thinking people.

This caused a reply from Miss Mattie Chamberlain, who stated that she always felt very indignant when any criticisms were made on the work of missions here, for she could remember the early labors of those who had the interests of the people at heart. She described the hard work of the early days in which she was associated. She also proposed writing a paper on Miss Ogden's school for future presentation before the society. Miss Chamberlain came to Honolulu as a teacher in Kawaiahae Seminary. For the benefit of the society she drew a picture of her first Sunday School at Kawaiahae Church in the year 1854. People came in a half-clad and in the most careless manner. Her class consisted of fifteen girls, whom she could only lead to so many goats on the mountains, so wild were their actions. They were constantly moving about,

and it was with the greatest difficulty that they were kept in their seats at all. They brought their dogs along with them to Sunday School. Upon this point she told them she wished to quote a passage of scripture for remembrance on the next Sabbath. This was, "Without are Dogs." Miss Chamberlain spoke of the difficulty of teaching the natives consonants. She spoke so much to them regarding different points that her voice grew hoarse at times. She learned Hawaiian by reading to her Sunday School class the Gospel of John in English and having her pupils read the same to her in Hawaiian.

Professor Richards wanted to know if the results of early education were a better civilization only or more of a moral and religious improvement.

Rev. O. H. Gulick said that the concentrated character in a few Hawaiians was worthy of remark. The pastor of Kawaiahae Church was referred to as a noble specimen of Hawaiian—staunch, clear-headed and possessing good judgment. The pastor of Waiakua filled the place of a leader for the whole parish. At Ewa there was another preacher of the Gospel who stood head and shoulders above many white men between here and Ewa. In Waiakua there was still another noble specimen. These four men would be bright and shining lights in any community, yet they had come out from heathenism into the light of today.

Hawaii is a heaven in comparison to Micronesia. This was brought forth in comparing the heathenism of Micronesia with the civilization of Hawaii today. In all cities of the world where missionaries were found there were those who rated at them. The speaker remembered that in Japan the question was asked by a new-comer, "Where are those fools?" The question was well understood for the location of the missionaries was pointed out immediately.

Professor Richards said that in reply to his question the previous speaker had taken four specimens or results. Individual results could be counted on the fingers of one's hand. Were there not broader results than those indicated by just a few individuals picked out here and there?

Rev. S. E. Bishop replied that the same statement could and had been made in regard to the number of consistent whites.

Rev. C. M. Hyde read a letter from Samuel Holmes in which the writer spoke of certain Hawaiian youths who had been sent to the Cornwall school in Connecticut long years ago. The speaker said he had a list of twenty of those who had been educated at the school mentioned.

He proposed to trace out the history and life work of these. Some had already been traced. The life of one of these, written by a fellow student, was found to be so full of hope and inspiration that it has been translated into Cherokee and modern Greek. He had hoped that for the future of Hawaiians they could have preserved their political life and their future autonomy had been secured but God in his providence had decreed otherwise. Great progress had been made but too much had been expected by foreigners who seeing the great improvement which had been made, expected more. In comparing Japan with her centuries of civilization to look back upon with Hawaii's little one-half century, the criticism that more should have been done, seemed lacking in force.

Rev. O. P. Emerson remarked that all teachers specially needed acts; that Hawaiians even did not know their past history except for a few years back. Young Hawaiians of today have no conception of Hawaii and of their own age fifty years ago and thus they too become critical because they do not know the facts.

J. S. Emerson said that all should read "Polynesian Researches," by Bishop Ellis. Apropos of this Professor Alexander remarked that the first three volumes which treated of Tahiti furnished an accurate and truthful description, conditions of which would apply to Hawaii. The fourth was a treatise on "Hawaii no I." In concluding the discussion Professor Richards said that the students of Kamehameha School showed that the missionaries had been at work. The state of affairs was entirely different from that which existed in the early days as described by Miss Chamberlain. There was no longer any difficulty with consonants. However, more must be done among Hawaiians. The momentum of work already accomplished has not been sufficient. The speaker said that he thought a great deal could be said in regard to the changed condition of Hawaiian home and village life, common ethics and morality.

The next meeting of the Mission Children's Society will be held at the house of Rev. C. M. Hyde in December.

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The first item on the program was a pianoforte selection by Mr. Omsted, who later in the evening favored the audience by playing in a duet with William Maurer. Mrs. Ogg gave two delightful readings which were much appreciated by those present. An interesting feature of the occasion was the dancing of the sword dance and highland fling by Mr. Douglas who appeared in full highland costume. Mr. Anderson gave a reading and comic song in great style. Mr. and Mrs. Scott excelled themselves in a dialogue entitled "The Naggletons on Derby Day."

Both acted their part to perfection, and were ably assisted by Mrs. Perry and Mrs. Douglas in their respective parts. A song by Mr. Garvie, who also officiated as chairman of the meeting, was well received.

The Makaweli Literary and Social Club again take the liberty of thanking Mrs. Morrison and the other ladies resident on the plantation for their kind assistance and for the toothsome refreshments which followed the program prepared for the evening.

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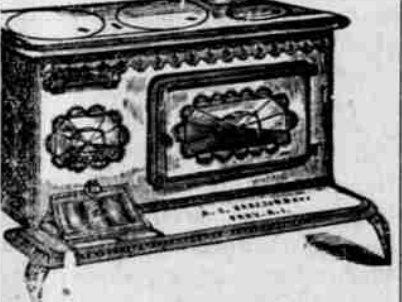
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